

AD-A065 138      NAVAL SURFACE WEAPONS CENTER WHITE OAK LAB SILVER SP--ETC F/G 11/4  
ULTRASONIC CHARACTERIZATION OF ALUMINUM MATRIX COMPOSITE ELASTI--ETC(U)  
NOV 78 G V BLESSING, W L ELBAN, J V FOLTZ

UNCLASSIFIED

NSWC/WOL/TR-78-159

NL



END  
DATE  
FILED  
4-79  
DDC

AD A0 651 38

NSWC/WOL TR 78-159

12 LEVEL II  
B.S.

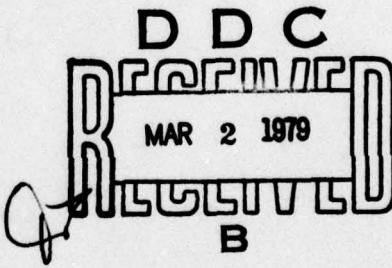
# ULTRASONIC CHARACTERIZATION OF ALUMINUM MATRIX COMPOSITE ELASTICITY : EXPERIMENT AND THEORY

BY G. V. BLESSING W. L. ELBAN J. V. FOLTZ  
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

1 NOVEMBER 1978

DDC FILE COPY

Approved for public release, distribution unlimited



NAVAL SURFACE WEAPONS CENTER

Dahlgren, Virginia 22448 • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

79 02 28 148

## UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER <b>14</b> NSWC/WOL/TR-78-159	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER <b>9</b>	
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) <b>6</b> Ultrasonic Characterization of Aluminum Matrix Composite Elasticity: Experiment and Theory	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED <b>rept.</b> Progress A Oct 77 - Aug 78		
7. AUTHOR(s) <b>10</b> G. V. Blessing, W. L. Elban, J. V. Foltz	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)		
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Naval Surface Weapons Center White Oak Laboratory Silver Spring, MD 20910	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS 62761N; SF 54-594, SF 54-594-594; CR 32BC		
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS	12. REPORT DATE <b>11</b> Nov 1978		
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office) <b>15</b> F54594	15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified		
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited	18a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE <b>12</b> 32p		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)			
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Presented in part at the "First International Symposium on Ultrasonic Materials Characterization", National Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, MD (8 Jun 78)			
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Ultrasonics, Elastic Moduli, Metal Matrix Composites, Nondestructive Testing	C SUB 11		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The ability to make meaningful elastic moduli measurements ultrasonically is reported for potential application to the nondestructive evaluation of aluminum matrix composites. The materials were monitored for a change in elasticity as a function of heat treatment that would affect the material's residual stress state. We evaluate initial results obtained on two unidirectional (UD) systems: (1) continuous graphite (Gr) fiber reinforced Al, and (2) discontinuous SiC whisker reinforced Al. The requisite five elastic moduli $C_{ij}$ for a UD system were obtained by measuring bulk acoustic velocities, first in the as-fabricated			

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

material. The engineering constants, e.g., longitudinal and transverse Young's moduli, were in good agreement with available tensile test data. The samples were then subjected to single cycle liquid nitrogen and elevated temperature excursions, and the elastic moduli remeasured at room temperature. Results indicate a significant effect on the residual stress state (specifically, a reduction in modulus) of Gr/Al, but no effect on SiC/Al.

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

## SUMMARY

The ability to make meaningful elastic moduli measurements ultrasonically is reported for potential application to the nondestructive evaluation of aluminum matrix composites. The materials were monitored for a change in elasticity as a function of heat treatment that would affect the material's residual stress state. We evaluate initial results obtained on two unidirectional (UD) systems: (1) continuous graphite (Gr) fiber reinforced Al, and (2) discontinuous SiC whisker reinforced Al. The requisite five elastic moduli  $C_{ij}$  for a UD system were obtained by measuring bulk acoustic velocities, first in the as-fabricated material. The engineering constants, e.g., longitudinal and transverse Young's moduli, were in good agreement with available tensile test data. The samples were then subjected to single cycle liquid nitrogen and elevated temperature excursions, and the elastic moduli remeasured at room temperature. Results indicate a significant effect on the residual stress state (specifically, a reduction in modulus) of Gr/Al, but no effect on SiC/Al.

*J. R. Dixon*  
J. R. DIXON  
By direction

ACCESSION for	
NTIS	White Section
DDC	Buff Section <input type="checkbox"/>
UNANNOUNCED	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUSTIFICATION	
BY	
DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY CODES	
Dist.	AVAIL. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or SPECIAL
A	

**PREFACE**

The work reported here represents a portion of the research and development carried out by the Materials Division of the Research and Technology Department to evaluate the elastic properties of aluminum matrix composites. This work was supported by the NAVSEA Metal Matrix Composites Block Program SF 54 594594. This report summarizes ultrasonic test results and theoretical model calculations obtained on both continuous and discontinuous fiber reinforced aluminum composites in FY 78.

CONTENTS

	Page
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Samples Used.....	6
Ultrasonic System.....	8
Data Analysis Approach.....	8
Thermal Treatments Applied.....	10
<b>RESULTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Graphite/Aluminum Composite.....	10
SiC/Aluminum Composite.....	13
<b>CONCLUSIONS AND PLANS.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>APPENDIX.....</b>	<b>A-1</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION LIST.....</b>	<b>I-1</b>

## ILLUSTRATIONS

<u>Figure</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Pictorial Illustration of Unidirectional (a) Continuous Fiber Reinforced GR/Al Plate, and (b) Discontinuous Fiber (Whisker) Reinforced SiC/Al Extruded Rod. The Principal Fiber Direction is $\beta$ , with the Plane of Isotropy Transverse to it.....	6
2	SEM Photographs of 30 V/o GR/Al Plate Sliced Transverse to the Fiber Direction ( $\beta$ ) at Two Magnifications: (a) 30X Illustrating the Sample Plate Boundaries and Random Fiber Bundle Arrangements; and (b) 100X Illustrating the Al Infiltrated Array of Fibers in Each Bundle.....	7
3	Broadband Ultrasonic System Used to Measure Sound Velocity By the Time-of-Flight Pulse-Echo Overlap Technique.....	8

## TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
I	Equations Relating the Measured Ultrasonic Velocities $V_n$ to the Elastic Moduli $C_{ij}$ for a UD Composite with Fibers in the $\beta$ Direction.....	9
II	Equations Relating Engineering Moduli to the Ultrasonically Determined Elastic Moduli $C_{ij}$ for a UD Composite with Fibers in the $\beta$ Direction.....	11
III	Sample Data Set for As-Fabricated 30 V/o Th 50/201 Al with a Density of 2.44 gm/cm <sup>3</sup> .....	12
IV	Ultrasonic Moduli (in GPa) of 30 V/o Th 50/201 Al Before and After Two Separate Heat Treatments, Including Theoretical Model Predictions.....	14
V	Ultrasonic Moduli (in GPa) of 27 V/o SiC/Al Before and After Extrusion, Including Theoretical Model Predictions.....	16
VI	Ultrasonic Moduli (in GPa) of 27 V/o SiC/Al Extruded Rod Before and After Heat Treatment at 500°C for 20 Minutes.....	17

## INTRODUCTION

The initial results of an ultrasonic study to nondestructively characterize metal matrix composite elastic properties are reported. Single cycle thermal treatment effects on the Young's and shear moduli, relevant to the end item fabrication process, are given for two specific unidirectional (UD) aluminum matrix composites. For one of these, SiC/Al, the as-cast billet moduli are compared to the extruded anisotropic values. Also, a comparison of the ultrasonically determined moduli with machine tensile values is made where possible.

The two UD metal composite systems addressed in this paper are (1) a continuous fiber Thorne 50 graphite reinforced 201 aluminum alloy (Th 50/201 Al); and (2) a discontinuous fiber silicon carbide whisker reinforced aluminum (30 V/o) reinforcement fiber array. Both composites possess a nominal 30% by volume (30 V/o) reinforcement (SiC/Al). Both

The motivation for thermal treatment of a composite is twofold. First, the as-fabricated residual stress state of a composite with constituent materials possessing different coefficients of thermal expansion is of concern. Secondly, the effects of net-shape material forming at elevated temperatures need to be evaluated.

Substantial efforts have been made in recent years to ultrasonically evaluate the engineering moduli of non-metal composites, with reasonable success.<sup>1-6</sup> The work in metal matrix composites has been much more limited.<sup>7,8</sup> However, the evolution of new inexpensive metal composites with very attractive features will accelerate the pace of metallic system development. Closer agreement can be expected between the ultrasonically determined dynamic moduli and the statically measured tensile values for metal rather than non-metal composites. This is due both to the strong viscoelastic frequency dependence of most non-metals and the effects of adiabatic heating (ultrasonic method) versus isothermal tests (static method). Both phenomena are negligible in non-viscous highly conductive metals. However, geometric dispersion (caused by an orderly array of fibers in the matrix) can dominate the apparent elasticity's frequency dependence in both metal and non-metal composites and, therefore, needs to be evaluated when making a direct comparison of dynamic and static test values.<sup>9,10</sup> Finally, we note that whether or not an absolute comparison can be confidently made between the ultrasonic and tensile values, the ultrasonic method is invaluable for accurately determining relative changes as a function of temperature, thermal treatment, and composition.

EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUESamples Used

Figure 1 illustrates the two composite systems investigated. The Gr/Al sample was available in single-ply plate form 2.6 mm thick.<sup>a</sup> The plate was formed from a multi-layer of precursor Gr/Al wires diffusion bonded with 0.15 mm of 2024 Al on both surfaces. The precursor wires, with a nominal diameter of 1 mm, were formed by liquid metal infiltration of graphite fiber bundles. The measured plate density was 2.44 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, indicating a net 30 V/o graphite fiber reinforcement. Parallel face samples approximately 3.0 mm in length were cut transverse to and at 45° relative to the fiber direction. Figure 2 presents 30X and 100X magnifications normal to the transverse cut, illustrating the random fiber-aluminum matrix geometry.<sup>b</sup>

The SiC/Al sample was available in a 50 mm long by 40 mm diameter cast cylindrical billet with a 27 V/o reinforcement.<sup>c</sup> The SiC whisker dimensions are only approximately known: about 85% are particulate, and the remaining 15% have a nominal aspect ratio ( $l/d$ ) of 30, where  $d$  is  $\sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ , after billet fabrication. The sample section taken from the 10:1 extruded bar was approximately 20 mm in length and 10 mm diameter. The extrusion process was expected to align the whiskers by shear viscous flow to produce a UD composite. From this extruded section, a 3.0 mm thick parallel face cut at 45° to the extrusion direction was taken for three of the velocity measurements.

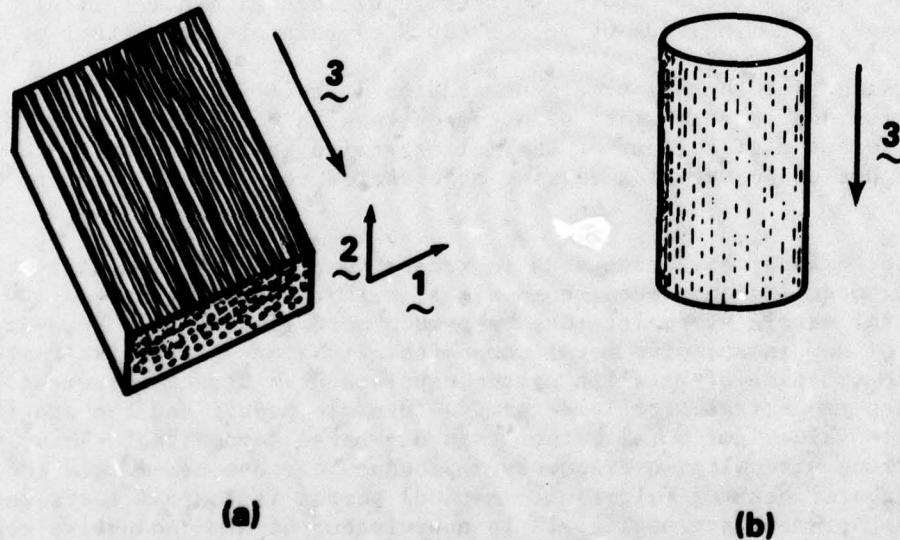


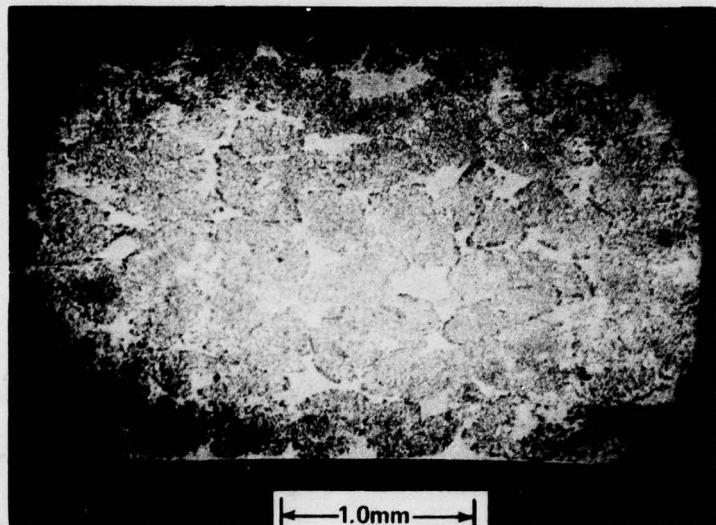
Figure 1. Pictorial Illustration of Unidirectional (a) Continuous Fiber Reinforced GR/Al Plate, and (b) Discontinuous Fiber (Whisker) Reinforced SiC/Al Extruded Rod. The Principal Fiber Direction is 3, with the Plane of Isotropy Transverse to it.

<sup>a</sup>Plate material fabricated by DWA Composite Specialities, Inc., Chatsworth, CA.

<sup>b</sup>Scanning electron micrograph taken by M. K. Norr, NSWC, Silver Spring, Maryland.

<sup>c</sup>Billet fabricated by A. P. Divecha, NSWC, Silver Spring, Maryland.

(a)



(b)

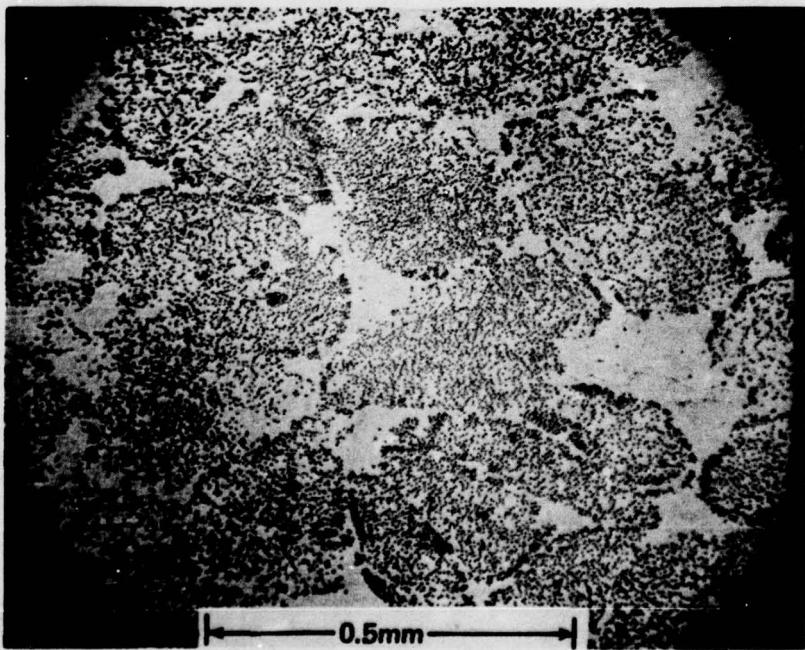


Figure 2. SEM Photographs of 30 V/o GR/Al Plate Sliced Transverse to the Fiber Direction (3) at Two Magnifications: (a) 30X Illustrating the Sample Plate Boundaries and Random Fiber Bundle Arrangements; and (b) 100X Illustrating the Al Infiltrated Array of Fibers in Each Bundle.

Ultrasonic System

Bulk acoustic velocity measurements of both longitudinal and shear waves were made in specific directions relative to the composite fibers. All measurements were made at room temperature by direct contact of transducer to sample or via a delay rod.

The experimental system used is shown in Figure 3. The sharp spike voltage excitation of a heavily damped PZT ceramic transducer for longitudinal waves, and of a LiNbO<sub>3</sub> single crystal for shear waves, produced broadband acoustic pulses with a nominal 10 MHz center frequency. Time of flight velocity measurements were made by pulse-echo overlap using the time delay of a 7000 series Tektronix oscilloscope. The digital readout time display provided a resolution of 1 ns for a precision  $\pm 1:1000$ , with a like precision for the velocity. Minimum acoustic path lengths, defined by the sample dimensions, were 6 mm round trip measured to a resolution of 4  $\mu$ m or  $\pm 1:1000$ .

Data Analysis Approach

By means of the stress-strain constitutive relationships for orthotropic media, the elastic constants  $C_{ij}$  were calculated knowing the material density  $\rho$  and the direction of acoustic propagation  $\mathbf{k}$  relative to the fiber direction  $\mathbf{z}$ . Table I summarizes these relationships for a UD system, one that is transversely isotropic or specially orthotropic. There are five independent  $C_{ij}$  as originally shown by Mason,<sup>11</sup> Musgrave<sup>12</sup> and others, but eight independent measurements are conveniently made for three directions of wave propagation relative to the fibers:  $\mathbf{k} \parallel \mathbf{z}$ ,  $\mathbf{k} \perp \mathbf{z}$ , and  $\mathbf{k} \times (\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{z}) = 45^\circ$ . The additional three measurements serve to check the other measurements.

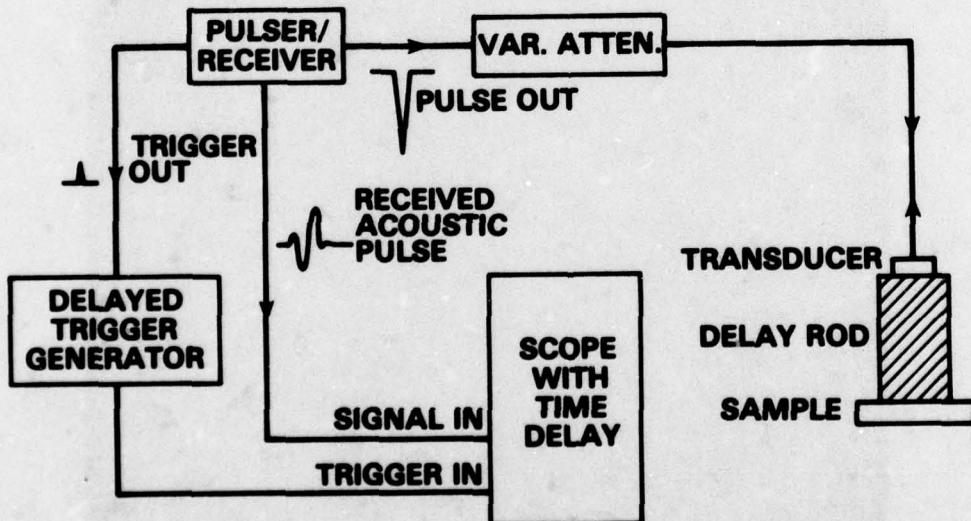


Figure 3. Broadband Ultrasonic System Used to Measure Sound Velocity By the Time-of-Flight Pulse-Echo Overlap Technique.

Table I. Equations Relating the Measured Ultrasonic Velocities  $v_n$  to the Elastic Moduli  $C$  for a UD Composite with Fibers in the  $\hat{z}$  Direction

<u>Equation #</u>	<u>Wave Type &amp; Prop. Dir.<sup>a</sup></u>
1	$\rho v_1^2 = C_{33}$ Long: $\hat{k} \parallel \hat{z}$
2	$\rho v_2^2 = C_{11}$ Long: $\hat{k} \perp \hat{z}$
3	$\rho v_3^2 = C_{44}$ Shear: $\hat{k} \parallel \hat{z}$
4	$\rho v_4^2 = C_{44}$ Shear: $\hat{k} \perp \hat{z}$
5	$\rho v_5^2 = C_{66}$ Shear: $\hat{k} \perp \hat{z}$
6	$\rho v_6^2 = 1/2 \left\{ \frac{C_{11} + C_{33} + 2C_{44}}{2} + \left[ \left( \frac{C_{33} - C_{11}}{2} \right)^2 + (C_{13} + C_{44})^2 \right]^{1/2} \right\} \chi_{(\hat{k}, \hat{z})}^{\text{Quasi-Long}}$
7	$\rho v_7^2 = 1/2 \left\{ \frac{C_{11} + C_{33} + 2C_{44}}{2} - \left[ \left( \frac{C_{33} - C_{11}}{2} \right)^2 + (C_{13} + C_{44})^2 \right]^{1/2} \right\} \chi_{(\hat{k}, \hat{z})}^{\text{Quasi-Shear}}$ in Plane $(\hat{k}, \hat{z})$
8	$\rho v_8^2 = 1/2 (C_{44} + C_{66})$ Shear: $\hat{\chi}_{\perp \text{Plane}}^{(\hat{k}, \hat{z})} = 45^\circ$

<sup>a</sup>  $\hat{k}$  is the acoustic propagation vector, and  $\hat{\chi}$  is the shear wave polarization direction.

With the above-mentioned time resolution in the velocity measurement, the precision of the calculated  $C_{ij}$  is  $\sqrt{4}: 1000$ . Provided all controllable variables such as acoustic frequency and sample dimensions are kept constant, we can then monitor changes in  $C_{ij}$  as a function of thermal treatment to better than 0.5%. The absolute uncertainty of this technique is estimated to be less than 1% for the  $C_{ij}$ . For  $C_{13}$ , the number of variables involved in Equations 6 and 7 indicate a somewhat reduced precision. In fact, we have experienced the accuracy of  $C_{13}$  to be very much reduced, as have other investigators.<sup>1,3</sup>

Finally, to relate the composite bulk elastic properties so obtained to engineering quantities such as Young's modulus, we refer to Table II. The  $E_{mn}$ ,  $G_{mn}$ , and  $U_{13}$  are, respectively, Young's moduli, shear moduli and Poisson's ratio, where the second subscript refers to the stress direction. The specific modulus type and property direction are given in the last column of Table II. Similar relationships exist for the other two Poisson's ratios pertinent to a UD composite. The precision of the longitudinal Young's modulus,  $E_{33}$ , a principal quantity of interest for materials design, is estimated to be better than 2% with the above-described measurement technique.

#### Thermal Treatments Applied

Two sets of Gr/Al samples were subjected to separate thermal treatments. One set was subjected to a two-part cycle: first quenched in liquid nitrogen ( $LN_2$ ), then heated at  $260^\circ C$  in a vacuum furnace for twenty minutes. This sample set was observed to have slightly expanded dimensions (<0.5%) after treatment. The second set was simply heated at  $500^\circ C$  under vacuum for twenty minutes. The  $LN_2$  quenching step was applied to relieve the residual stress state of an as-fabricated plate material. The elevated temperature excursions simulate excursions the plate material experiences in net shape hardware fabrication and/or in service.

Only the  $45^\circ$  cut from the SiC/Al sample set was exposed to thermal treatment. It was heated at  $500^\circ C$  in the vacuum furnace for twenty minutes as was the Gr/Al sample set.

After thermal treatment, the elastic moduli of all specimens were remeasured ultrasonically at room temperature.

#### RESULTS

##### Gr/Al Composite

Table III provides a sample set of data for the 25 V/o Gr/Al specimens, together with the calculated  $C_{ij}$  moduli. Additional  $C_{44}$  and  $C_{13}$  values ( $C_{44-2}$ ,  $C_{13-2}$ , etc.) are calculated from the additionally measured velocities  $V_6$ ,  $V_7$  and  $V_8$ . A computer program<sup>d</sup> has been written to calculate the  $C_{ij}$  and the related engineering moduli for an arbitrary angle of the fibers relative to the acoustic propagation  $k$ . Table II above gives these relationships (Equations 6, 7, 8) for the special case of  $\theta = 45^\circ$ .<sup>2,3</sup> In Table III, note that nine  $C_{ij}$  values have been calculated from eight velocity measurements. The last value,  $C_{13-3}$ , was obtained by subtracting Equations 6 and 7 to solve for  $C_{13}$ .

<sup>d</sup>Program written by A. L. Bertram, NSWC, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Table III. Equations Relating Engineering Moduli to the Ultrasonically Determined Elastic Moduli  $C_{ij}$  for a UD Composite with Fibers in the  $\hat{z}$  Direction

<u>Eq. #</u>	<u>Eng. Modulus</u>	<u>Function (<math>C_{ij}</math>)</u>	<u>Type &amp; Dir. Relative to Fibers</u>
9	$E_{33}$	$= \frac{C_{13}^2}{C_{33} - \frac{C_{11} - C_{66}}{C_{13}}}$	Young's: Long.' Parallel to Fibers
10	$E_{11}$	$= \frac{4 C_{66} \left[ \frac{C_{33}(C_{11} - C_{66}) - C_{13}^2}{C_{11} C_{33} - C_{13}^2} \right]}{C_{66}}$	Young's: Transverse to Fibers
11	$G_{13}$	$= C_{44}$	Shear: In-Plane, Parallel to Fibers
12	$G_{12}$	$= C_{66}$	Shear: In-Plane, Perpendicular to Fibers
13	$\nu_{13}$	$= \frac{C_{13}}{2(C_{11} - C_{66})}$	Poisson's Ratio: Stress Parallel to Fibers, Strain Measured in Transverse Plane

Table III. Sample Data Set for Ag-Fabricated 30 v/o Th 50/201 Al with a Density of 2.44 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>

<u>Velocity (mm/<math>\mu</math>s)</u>	<u>Equations Used from Table I</u>	<u><math>C_{ij}</math> (GPa)<sup>a</sup></u>
V1 = 8.642	1	$C_{33} = 182.$
V2 = 4.040	2	$C_{11} = 39.8$
V3 = 2.783	3	$C_{44-1} = 18.9$
V4 = 2.783	4	$C_{44-2} = 18.9$
V5 = 2.073	3 & 8 or 4 & 8	$C_{44-3} = 18.8$
V6 = 6.166	5	$C_{66} = 10.5$
V7 = 3.070	1, 2, 3, & 6	$C_{13-1} = 25.6$
V8 = 2.450	1, 2, 3, & 7	$C_{13-2} = 25.5$
	1, 2, 3, 6, & 7	$C_{13-3} = -4.69$

<sup>a</sup> 1 GPa = 10<sup>9</sup> N/m<sup>2</sup>. To obtain  $C_{ij}$  in units of 10<sup>6</sup> psi (or ksi), multiply # GPa by 0.145.

Some of the  $C_{ij}$  calculations deserve special attention, in particular the  $C_{13}$  and  $C_{44}$  values. The large variation of  $C_{13}$ , even being negative, is not understood at this time but has been reported by other investigators.<sup>1,3</sup> Since the V7 measurement yielded the most meaningful and consistent results from sample to sample for both composite systems,  $C_{13}^{-2}$  was used throughout to calculate  $E_{11}$ ,  $E_{33}$  and  $V_{13}$  according to the relationships in Table II. Concerning the  $C_{44}$  values, although the particular data set in Table III shows excellent agreement for all three measurements, there was as much as a 9% difference observed in another sample between  $C_{44}^{-1}$  and  $C_{44}^{-2}$ . This is well in excess of the experimental precision of 0.5%. This may possibly be attributed to geometric dispersion since the acoustic wave length at 10 MHz is comparable to the average fiber spacing.<sup>8,9</sup> And these two shear measurements are made in one case with  $k$  parallel to the fibers, and the other with  $k$  perpendicular to the fibers.

Table IV summarizes the effects of two separate heat treatments on two sets of Gr/Al samples and compares the ultrasonic (UT) values with theoretical model predictions for as-fabricated plate before heat treatment. The UT as-fabricated values were calculated according to Equations 9-13 using the raw data of Table III. Model predictions assumed perfect bonding of the graphite fibers to the Al matrix,<sup>13,14</sup> in addition to static stress conditions. (See Appendix for the relevant formulae of the variational bounds model by Z. Hashin.) In spite of this, the second and third columns of Table IV show very good agreement between experiment and theory, except for Poisson's ratio  $V_{13}$ . At this point, we only note that  $V_{13}$  is proportional to  $C_{13}$ , a quantity which itself presents interpretation difficulties. Finally, we note that  $E_{33}$  modulus was in good agreement with the range of values (131 to 165 GPa) obtained on a series of tensile specimens taken from the same sample plate. In addition, the ultrasonic  $E_{11}$  and  $G_{13}$  values were in good agreement with available static test results obtained on similar plate material.<sup>e</sup>

A comparison of the last two columns of Table IV with the first column shows a measureable reduction in Young's moduli, in particular  $E_{33}$ , after thermal treatment. The changes in the shear moduli, however, are negligible. Lastly, although the experimental precision is sufficient to detect a real change in Poisson's ratio, the strong dependence on  $C_{13}$  (Equation 13) clouds any significance that might be attached to its apparent increase.

Possible physical mechanisms for the reduction in  $E_{33}$  can only be conjectured at the present time. The possible formation of  $Al_4C_3$  at the Gr/Al interface is unreasonable for such short duration heat treatments (twenty minutes) at 260°C and 500°C.<sup>15-17</sup> It is more plausible to consider the effects on the residual stress state of the material, although reductions on the order of the 10% measured are unexpected.<sup>18</sup> Future heat treatments will help to elucidate the mechanism.

#### SiC/Al Composite

Table V compares ultrasonic moduli of 27 V/o SiC/Al before and after extrusion, including theoretical model predictions for the (presumed) unidirectional extruded rod. The reinforced cast billet values in the first column represent a 70% increase in stiffness over the isotropic Al matrix values of 70 and 27 GPa, respectively, for E and G. The last two columns show good agreement between the ultrasonic values

<sup>e</sup>Tensile data provided by NETCO, Long Beach, California.

Table IV. Ultrasonic Moduli (in GPa) of 30 V/o Th 50/201 Al Before and After Two Separate Heat Treatments, Including Theoretical Model Predictions

Eng. Modulus	As-Fabricated Plate		Post Heat Treatment	
	UT	Model <sup>a</sup>	500°C	LN <sub>2</sub> Quench & 260°C
E <sub>33</sub>	160.	166.	148.	141.± 3.
E <sub>11</sub>	29.7	32.6	29.7	26.9
G <sub>13</sub>	18.6	18.5	18.6	19.3
G <sub>12</sub>	10.3	10.8	11.0	9.6
γ <sub>13</sub>	0.43	0.34	0.47	0.53

<sup>a</sup>Continuous fiber reinforcement model by Hashin. 14

<sup>b</sup>Relatively large error in precision due to different specimen used.

and theoretical model predictions. The difficulties experienced in the calculation for  $C_{13}$  for Gr/Al were not encountered with the SiC/Al data. The discontinuous fiber reinforcement model assumes 100% alignment of the elongated whiskers in the direction of extrusion.<sup>19,20</sup> In addition, equal longitudinal and transverse Young's moduli for whisker elasticity, estimated at 480 GPa, is assumed. More recent evidence that the value may be closer to 700 GPa might be cause for ultrasonically measuring a modulus value  $E_{33}$  larger even than that predicted by a model assuming perfect whisker-matrix bonding.

The high percentage of particulate SiC with  $\ell/d \approx 1$  is reflected by the high elastic isotropy (nearly equal shear moduli  $G_{12}$  and  $G_{13}$ ) measured. The available tensile data on this sample, a three-test average value of 117 GPa for  $E_{33}$ , showed reasonable agreement with the ultrasonically determined value of 132 GPa.<sup>f</sup>

Table VI presents data on SiC/Al before and after a twenty-minute heat treatment at 500°C. The calculated engineering moduli are bracketed to indicate that the before-heat treatment data was necessarily used in part for these calculations. Since only the 45° cut (to the extrusion direction) sample was available for heat treatment, only the V6, V7 and V8 measurements could be made on the heat treated specimen. However, the consistency of the three measurements, indicating a constant or slightly increasing stiffness, lends confidence to the bracketed values. In addition, data on several other heat treated specimens of extruded SiC/Al has consistently demonstrated a slight increase in modulus value with elevated temperature excursions. Both a more comparable thermal coefficient of expansion between SiC and Al, and the short discontinuous fiber nature of SiC reinforcement, corroborates the lesser heat treatment effects observed on the elasticity of SiC/Al than on Gr/Al.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND PLANS

The most significant result is the effect of thermal treatment on the two metal matrix composites' elasticity: a measurable reduction in stiffness for Gr/Al but no reduction for SiC/Al. Secondly, the good agreement of the ultrasonic values with machine tensile test data and model predictions demonstrates that the ultrasonic technique can be used to meaningfully characterize the material moduli.

An unresolved difficulty is the inconsistency of the  $C_{13}$  calculations from the 45° velocity measurements for Gr/Al. This principally reflects itself in questionable values for the Poisson's ratio which are anomalously large in some cases. The small increase upon extrusion in the longitudinal modulus  $E_{33}$  for SiC/Al indicates that the use of better quality reinforcement whiskers should improve that material's already attractive properties.

Future investigations will be first to examine the effects of repeated heat treatments on the material's elasticity. Secondly, multi-ply Gr/Al laminates stacked at specific fiber angles (to improve the transverse properties) will be studied. Finally, some long-range goals for the program include making a reliable nondestructive estimate of Young's modulus for a UD composite by means of a simple longitudinal velocity measurement, and to relate the material's strength to ultrasonic parameters.

<sup>f</sup>Tensile data provided by C. R. Crowe, NSWC, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Table V. Ultrasonic Moduli (in GPa) of 27 V/o  
SiC/Al Before and After Extrusion,  
Including Theoretical Model Predictions

Eng. Modulus	CAST BILLET	EXTRUDED ROD	
		UT	Theor. Model <sup>a</sup>
$E_{33}$	116.	132.	124.
$E_{11}$	-	116.	117.
$G_{13}$	44.8	44.8	45.5
$G_{12}$	-	43.7	40.7
$\nu_{13}$	0.29	0.29	0.30

<sup>a</sup>Discontinuous fiber reinforcement model by Halpin  
and Tsai.<sup>19</sup>

**Table VI. Ultrasonic Moduli (in GPa) of 27 V/o  
SiC/Al Extruded Rod Before and After  
Heat Treatment at 500°C for 20 minutes**

Eng. Modulus	BEFORE	AFTER
$E_{33}$	132.	$[134.]^a$
$E_{11}$	116.	$[117.]$
$G_{13}$	44.8	$[44.8]$
$G_{12}$	43.7	$[43.7]$
$\nu_{13}$	0.29	$[0.28]$

<sup>a</sup> Brackets [ ] indicate values calculated using BEFORE  
heat treatment data in part.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to those cited throughout the report, the authors wish to recognize helpful discussions with Drs. C. R. Crowe and S. G. Fishman, Research Department, NSWC. This work was supported by the NAVSEA Metal Matrix Composites Block Program SF 54 594594.

REFERENCES

1. Dean, G. D., and Turner, P., "The Elastic Properties of Carbon Fibres and Their Composites", Composites 4 (1973), 174.
2. Smith, R. E., "Ultrasonic Elastic Constants of Carbon Fibers and Their Composites", J. Appl. Phys. 43, No. 6 (1972), 2555.
3. Zimmer, J. E., and Cost, J. R., "Determination of the Elastic Constants of a Unidirectional Fiber Composite Using Ultrasonic Measurements", J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 47, No. 3 (1970), 795.
4. Markham, M. F., "Measurement of the Elastic Constants of Fibre Composites by Ultrasonics", Composites 1, (1970), 145.
5. Reynolds, W. N., And Wilkinson, S. J., "The Propagation of Ultrasonic Waves in CFRP Laminates", Ultrasonics (May 1974), 109.
6. Russel, W. B., and Acrivos, A., "On the Effective Moduli of Composite Materials: Experimental Study of Chopped Fiber Reinforcement", J. Appl. Math. and Phys. 24, (1973), 838.
7. Read, D. T., and Ledbetter, H. H., "Elastic Properties of a Boron-Aluminum Composite at Low Temperatures", J. Appl. Phys. 48, No. 7 (1977), 2827.
8. Ledbetter, H. M., and Read, D. T., "Orthorhombic Elastic Constants of an NbTi/Cu Composite Superconductor", J. Appl. Phys. 48, No. 5 (1977), 1874.
9. Sutherland, H. J., and Lingle, R., "Geometric Dispersion of Acoustic Waves by Fibrous Composites", J. Composite Matls. 6 (1972), 490.
10. Sutherland, H. J., "Dispersion of Acoustic Waves by Fiber-Reinforced Viscoelastic Materials", J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 57, No. 4 (1975), 870.
11. Mason, W. P., "Physical Acoustics and the Properties of Solids", D. Van Nostrand Co. (1958), 371-2.
12. Musgrave, M. J. P., "On the Propagation of Elastic Waves in Aeolotropic Media, II. Media of Hexagonal Symmetry", Proc. Roy. Soc. A, 226 (1954), 356.
13. Hashin, Z., and Rosen B. W., "The Elastic Moduli of Fiber-Reinforced Materials", J. Appl. Mech. 31, (1964), 223.

14. Hashin, Z., "Theory of Fiber Reinforced Materials", NASA CR-1974 (N72-21932, Univ. PA); and "Analysis of Fiber Composites with Anisotropic Constituents", Submitted for publication (Aug 1978).
15. Khan, I. H., "The Effect of Thermal Exposure on the Mechanical Properties of Aluminum-Graphite Composites", Metallurgical Trans. A, 7, (1976), 1281.
16. Blankenburgs, G., "The Effect of Carbide Formation on the Mechanical Behavior of Carbon-Aluminum Composites", J. Austr. Inst. of Metals 14, No. 4 (1969), 236.
17. Baker, A. A., Shipman, Mrs. C., and Jackson, P. W., "The Short-Term Compatability of Carbon Fibres with Aluminum", Fibre Science and Tech. 5, (1972), 213.
18. Daniel, I. M., and Liber, T., "Effect of Laminate Construction on Residual Stresses in Graphite/Polyimide Composites", Exper. Mech., (Jan 1977), 21.
19. Halpin, J. C., and Tsai, S. W., "Environmental Factors in Composite Materials Design", AFML TR 67-423.
20. Ashton, J. E., Halpin, J. C., and Petit, P. H., "Primer on Composite Materials: Analysis", Technomic Pub. Co., Westport, CT (1969), esp. 77-84.

## Appendix

Following are the formulae used to obtain the theoretical model predictions by Hashin reported in Table IV for as-fabricated Gr/Al plate. The effective elastic moduli for a unidirectional continuous fiber composite consisting of transversely isotropic fibers and matrix are indicated by stars:  $E_A^*$ ,  $E_T^*$ , etc.

The particular relationships peculiar to a Gr/Al composite are  $E_T^*$  and  $G_T^*$  given below in equations (A-2) and (A-4). These relationships represent the lower bound solutions of the variational bounds method based on the composite cylinder assemblage model.<sup>14</sup> These results incorporate the boundary condition presented by a matrix which has greater transverse moduli than the fiber.

In all the equations, on the right hand side the suffix 1 denotes matrix and 2 denotes fibers; and A denotes the axial or 3 direction, and T denotes the transverse direction. The bulk modulus is  $k$ , and the respective volume fractions of matrix and fiber are  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ . Equations (A-2) and (A-4) are for the case that  $G_{T1} > G_{T2}$  and  $E_{T1} > E_{T2}$ .

$$E_{33} \equiv E_A^* = E_{A1}v_1 + E_{A2}v_2 + \frac{4(v_{A2} - v_{A1})^2 v_1 v_2}{v_1/k_2 + v_2/k_1 + 1/G_{T1}} \quad (A-1)$$

$$E_{11} \equiv E_T^* = \frac{4k^*G_T^*}{k^* + m^*G_T} \quad (A-2)$$

$$G_{13} \equiv G_A^* = G_{A1} \frac{G_{A1}v_1 + G_{A2}(1 + v_2)}{G_{A2}(1 + v_2) + G_{A2}v_1} = G_{A1} + \frac{v_2}{\frac{1}{G_{A2} - G_{A1}} + \frac{v_1}{2G_{A1}}} \quad (A-3)$$

and

$$G_{12} \equiv G_T^* = G_{T1} \left[ 1 + \frac{(1 + \beta_1)v_2}{\rho - v_2 \left[ 1 + \frac{3\beta_1^2 v_1^2}{\alpha v_2^3 - \beta_1} \right]} \right] \quad (A-4)$$

$$v_{13} \equiv v_A^* = v_{A1}v_1 + v_{A2}v_2 + \frac{(v_{A2} - v_{A1})(1/k_1 - 1/k_2)v_1v_2}{v_1/k_2 + v_2/k_1 + 1/G_{T1}} \quad (A-5)$$

where:

$$k_2 = \frac{E_{A2} E_{T2}}{2 E_{A2} (1 - v_{T2}) - 4 E_{T2} v_{A2}^2} \quad (A-6)$$

$$k^* = k_1 + \frac{v_2}{\frac{1}{k_2 - k_1} + \frac{v_1}{k_1 + G_{T1}}} \quad (A-7)$$

$$m^* = 1 + \frac{4k^*v_A^*}{E_A^*} \quad (A-8)$$

$$\alpha = \frac{\beta_1 - \gamma\beta_2}{1 + \gamma\beta_2} \quad (A-9)$$

$$\rho = \frac{\gamma + \beta_1}{\gamma - 1} \quad (A-10)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{G_{T2}}{G_{T1}} \quad (A-11)$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{k_1}{k_1 + 2G_{T1}} \quad (A-12)$$

$$\beta_2 = \frac{k_2}{k_2 + 2G_{T2}} \quad (A-13)$$

DISTRIBUTION

**Commander**

Attn: Mr. Greenspan (Code MAD)  
Mr. Levy (Code MAD)  
Mr. Rizzitano (Code MAD)  
Mr. S. Doherty (Code MRD)  
Mr. P. W. Rolston (DRXMR-MQ)

Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center  
Watertown, MA 02172

**Commanding Officer**

Attn: Mr. Waldemar F. Larsen  
Mr. Stan Rycyk  
Mr. George Drucker, Bldg. 908  
Picatinny Arsenal  
SARPA-QA-A-R, Bldg. 94  
Dover, NJ 07801

**Wright-Patterson Air Force Base**

Attn: Mr. Edward Wheeler  
Mr. R. R. Rowand

AFML/LTM  
Metals Branch  
OH 45733

**Commanding Officer**

Attn: Mr. Howard Heffan  
Mr. Hans Vanardenne (Code 331)  
Naval Weapons Station  
Concord, CA 94520

**Commanding Officer**

Attn: S. Inove  
C. Lynch  
W. Scott (Code 30233)  
Naval Air Development Center  
Air Vehicle Technology Department  
Warminster, PA 18974

DISTRIBUTION (Cont.)

**Commander**

Attn: H. Benefield 350  
C. Bersch 52032  
T. Kearns 320  
Naval Air Systems Command  
Washington, DC 20361

**Commanding Officer**

Attn: Code 5822  
Mr. Joe Snook  
Naval Ordnance Station  
Indian Head, MD 20640

**Commanding Officer**

Attn: Code 8435 (Mr. Henry H. Chaskelis, Mr. Stephen D. Hart)  
Naval Research Laboratory  
Washington, DC 20375

**Commander**

Attn: R. Bailey 0333  
W. Blaine 0333  
H. Byron 0354  
M. Kinna 035  
G. Sorkin 035  
H. Vanderveldt 035  
D. Ayers PMS 404-30  
Comm. G. Meinig PMS 404  
Naval Sea Systems Command  
Washington, DC 20362

**Office of Naval Research**

Attn: Code 420  
Code 471  
800 North Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA 22217

**NASA**

Lewis Research Center  
Attn: Mr. Alex Vary, 106-1  
Cleveland, OH 44135

**NASA Langley Research Center**  
Mail Stop 499

Attn: Dr. Joe Heyman  
Hampton, VA 23665

DISTRIBUTION (Cont.)

U. S. Naval Postgraduate School  
Attn: LT Ralph Gayler  
USN 552-74-1972/1110  
Code 530, Section WT62  
Monterey, CA 93940

Commanding Officer  
Attn: MCDEC, MCB (Mr. Edward Holland)  
Quantico Marine Base  
Air Operations  
Quantico, VA 22191

University of California, San Diego  
Attn: Dr. K. G. P. Sulzman  
Department of Applied Mechanics and Engineering Science  
LaJolla, CA 92037

Johns Hopkins University  
Attn: Dr. Robert E. Green, Jr.  
Department of Mechanics and Matls. Science  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dr. Paul F. Packman  
Professor, Engineering Matls.  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN 32735

Physics Department  
Attn: Mr. John Hart  
Xavier University  
Cincinnati, OH 45207

Hercules, Inc.  
Attn: Mr. Billy Coleman  
P. O. Box 98  
Magna, UT 84044

Catholic University  
Physics Department  
Attn: Dr. Jack Leibowitz  
Washington, DC 20017

NBS  
Code 736  
Attn: Dr. Hassel Ledbetter  
Boulder, CO 80302

DISTRIBUTION (Cont.)

**Northrop Corporation**  
3901 W. Broadway  
Mail Stop 3879-62  
Attn: Mr. David Mih  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

**University of Lowell**  
North Campus  
Attn: Dr. Steven Serabian  
Lowell, MA 00854

**Penn State University**  
Applied Research Laboratory  
P. O. Box 30  
Attn: Dr. Harold M. Frost  
State College, PA 16801

**Aerospace Corporation**  
Attn: Dr. M. Amateau, Box 92960  
Mr. W. Pfeiffer, Box 92957  
Los Angeles, CA 90009

**University of Delaware**  
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Attn: Dr. Byron Pipes  
Newark, DE 19711

**AMF Electronics Research Laboratory**  
3001 Centreville Road  
Attn: Mr. Don B. Heckman  
Herndon, VA 22070

**Honeywell Incorporated**  
Attn: Mr. Dave Broden, MN11-2190  
Mr. Don Wohlstrom, MN11-2810  
Defense Systems Inc.  
600 2nd Street, N.E.  
Hopkins, MN 55343

**Lockheed Palo Alto Research Laboratory**  
Attn: Dr. Gill C. Knollman  
3251 Hanover Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94304

**Nuclear Metals, Incorporated**  
Attn: Mr. Paul Lowenstein  
2229 Main Street  
Concord, MA 01742

DISTRIBUTION (Cont.)

Xenotec, Ltd.  
Attn: Mr. W. A. Lindgren  
100 Grove Road  
Frederick, MD 21701

NASA/Langley  
Mail Stop 188A  
Attn: Mr. Richard Buckingham  
Hampton, VA 23665

Dr. Paul M. Gammel  
Box 713  
Altadena, CA 91001

Defense Documentation Center  
Cameron Station  
Alexandria, VA 22314

12

Defense Printing Service  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, DC 20374

Library of Congress  
Attn: Gift and Exchange Division  
Washington, DC 20540

4

Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics  
Cornell University  
Attn: Dr. Y. H. Pao  
Ithica, NY 14853

Air Force Matls. Lab.  
AFML/LLP  
Attn: Mr. Don Forney  
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433

TO AID IN UPDATING THE DISTRIBUTION LIST  
FOR NAVAL SURFACE WEAPONS CENTER, WHITE  
OAK TECHNICAL REPORTS PLEASE COMPLETE THE  
FORM BELOW:

TO ALL HOLDERS OF NSWC/NSL/TR 78-159

by G. Blessing, Code 78-31

DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM IF ALL INFORMATION IS CURRENT

A. FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS (City, State, Zip Code)

NEW ADDRESS (Show Zip Code)

B. AREA OF EXPERTISE

C.

REMOVE THE FACILITY FROM THE DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR TECHNICAL REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

D.

NUMBER OF COPIES NEEDED